

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 145

E.O. 11652 GDS DECLAS DEC. 31, 1980

TAGS: TPHY, IS

SUBJ: WEATHER MODIFICATION

1. HERMAN POLLACK, DIRECTOR OF SCI, HAS BEEN INVITED TO TESTIFY JAN. 25 BEFORE SENATOR PELL'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE SENATE RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO PROHIBIT WEATHER MODIFICAION AS A WEAPON OF WAR.

2. YOU MAY BE RECEIVING THROUGH NSC CHANNELS A RECOMMENDATION THAT YOU REACH AN EARLY DECISION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU WILL REQUEST AN INTERAGENCY REVIEW OF WEATHER MODIFICATION, INCLUDING ITS USE AS A WEAPON OF WAR. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AN NSC STAFF PROPOSAL ON THIS SUBJECT WAS INCLUDED IN PAPERS TAKEN WITH YOU.

3. IN YOUR LETTER TO SENATOR PELL OF NOVEMBER 5 YOU REPEATED THE REMARK YOU MADE TO HIM DURING YOUR CONFIRMATION HEARINGS THAT HIS RESOLUTION ON WEATHER MODIFICATION MUST BE TAKEN QUOTE EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY UNQUOTE. YOU ALSO

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ASSURED HIM THAT YOU WOULD QUOTE LOOK CLOSELY INTO THIS

MATTER TO DETERMINE HOW WE MIGHT BE RESPONSIVE TO THE
RESOLUTION'S RECOMMENDATIONS UNQUOTE.

4. AS MATTERS NOW STAND THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS OPEN TO US.
THE FIRST WOULD FOLLOW FROM AN IMMEDIATE DECISION TO
REQUEST AN INTERAGENCY STUDY OF WEATHER MODIFICATION. IF

YOU WERE TO MAKE SUCH A REQUEST, THIS ACTION WOULD GIVE
SUBSTANCE TO YOUR ASSURANCES TO SENATOR PELL.

5. THE SECOND OPTION WOULD FOLLOW FROM A DECISION NOT
TO REQUEST AN INTERAGENCY STUDY. IN THAT CASE I BELIEVE
WE SHOULD TELL THE SUBCOMMITTEE THAT WE HAVE CONCLUDED
THAT THERE IS TOO MUCH UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE STATE OF
THE ART BEARING ON POTENTIAL MILITARY UTILITY OF WEATHER
MODIFICATION TO FOREGO IT AND FOR THAT REASON THE US
SHOULD NOT NOW TAKE AN INITIATIVE FOR OR SUPPORT AN
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT PROHIBITING THE USE OF WEATHER
MODIFICATION AS A WEAPON OF WAR. APART FROM THE
TECHNICAL WEAKNESS OF SUCH A POSITION, IT IS NOT
RESPONSIVE TO SENATOR PELL'S ARGUMENT THAT GEOPHYSICAL
WARFARE SHOULD BE PROSCRIBED BEFORE TECHNOLOGICAL
DEVELOPMENTS LEAD TO FURTHER ESCALATION. FURTHERMORE,
THIS POSITION WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DEFEND AGAINST THE
TESTIMONY WE CAN EXPECT FROM THOMAS MALONE, GORDON
MACDONALD AND OTHER EXPERTS WHO ARE ALSO SCHEDULED TO
TESTIFY AT THE HEARINGS. THEY MAY WELL MAKE THE TECHNICAL
ARGUMENT THAT NOT ONLY IS ENOUGH NOW KNOWN ABOUT THE
STATE OF THE ART TO PERMIT HARD DECISIONS ON THE UTILITY
OF WEATHER MODIFICATION AS A MILITARY WEAPON, BUT THAT
ITS UTILITY IS QUITE LIMITED. HOWEVER, IF IT IS
NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THIS POSITION, IT CAN BE DONE
BY A PHLEGMATIC AND STOLID PERFORMANCE ON THE WITNESS
STAND.

6. ACDA STRONGLY SUPPORTS MY VIEW THAT AN INTERAGENCY
STUDY ON WEATHER MODIFICATION SHOULD PROCEED
IMMEDIATELY. RUSH

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